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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1899.

SENATORIAL INVESTIGATION OF FOOD  
ADULTERATION.

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DURING the closing session of the last Congress, the Senate authorized the Committee on Manufactures to conduct a recess investigation on the subject of the extent and character of food adulteration in the United States. By reason of expiration of the term of service, only three members of the Senate Committee on Manufactures remained, namely, W. E. Mason, Chairman, of Illinois; W. A. Harris, of Kansas, and G. P. Wetmore, of Rhode Island. Under the terms of the resolution it is not necessary to have a quorum of the Committee, but the Chairman or any member designated by him is empowered to conduct the investigation, procure witnesses and to secure the analyses of suspected samples.

The Committee has already begun its work by holding a two weeks' session in Chicago. Dr. H. W. Wiley, the Chief Chemist of the Department of Agriculture, at the request of the Committee, has been detailed by the Secretary of Agriculture as an expert to attend the examinations and to assist in the work as far as possible.

Much interesting testimony was secured at the meeting in Chicago in regard to the extent and character of food adulteration.

Not only were business men who were engaged in adulteration placed upon the stand, but also some well-known hygienic and scientific experts, among whom may be

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson N. Y.

*Commercial Organic Analysis.* By ALFRED H. ALLEN, F.C., F.C.S. Third edition, illustrated with revisions and addenda by the author and HENRY LEFFMANN, M.A., M.D. Volume II., Part I., Fixed oils, fats, waxes, glycerol, nitroglycerine and nitroglycerine explosives. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1899. Pp. 387. Price, \$3.50.

The new editions of Volumes I. and IV. of this excellent work were noticed in SCIENCE some time ago. The present part contains only a portion of the matter originally included in the second volume, the discussion of the hydrocarbons and their immediate derivatives being reserved for the second part of the same volume. The more important additions to this part are: the bromine thermal method, methods for the determination of glycerol, acetyl number, various tests for oxidation of oils, composition and official methods for examination of dynamites and smokeless powders, degreas and cloth oils.

The standard character of the work is so well known that any detailed criticism is unnecessary. The revision has been well done and the book gives a good account of the present state of knowledge in what must be acknowledged as one of the most difficult as well as important fields of analytical chemistry.

W. A. NOYES.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*I Sogni.* SANTE DE SANCTIS. Torino, Fratelli Bocca. 1899. Pp. 390.

*Geometrical Drawing for Army and Navy Candidates and Public School Classes; Vol. 1., Practical Plane Geometry.* EDMUND C. PLANT. London and New York, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xiv + 185.

*Poems of Nature and Life.* JOHN WITT RANDALL. Edited by FRANCIS ELLINGWOOD ABBOT. Boston, Ellis. 1899. Pp. 556.

*The Making of Hawaii, a Study in Social Evolution.* W. F. BLACKMAN. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xii + 266.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES— SECTION OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

THE section met on May 15, 1899, Dr. A. A. Julien presiding. The following program was then offered:

1. Arthur Hollick: 'A Reconnaissance of the Elizabeth Islands, Mass.'

2. W. Goold Levison: 'Several Notes on Microscopical Attachments and Photography of Minerals.'

3. Heinrich Ries: 'Preliminary Notes on the Physical Properties of Clays.'

Another paper announced in behalf of Professor J. C. Smock, State Geologist of New Jersey, on 'Artesian Water Supply in New Jersey,' was postponed on account of sickness and absence of the author.

The following is an abstract of Dr. Hollick's paper on the Elizabeth Islands, which was illustrated by specimens, photographs, sketches and charts.

The Elizabeth Islands extend in a southwesterly direction from Wood's Holl, Mass., forming the barrier between Buzzard's Bay, on the north, and Vineyard Sound, on the south.

The principal islands are five in number, and beginning at the eastern end of the group they are known as Naushon, including Nonamessett, Uncatena, Pine Island, Buck Islands and the Weepeckets; Pasque; Nashawena; Penikese, including Gull Island, and Cuttyhunk.

Little or nothing has been written in regard to them for the reason that each island, with the exception of Cuttyhunk, on which there are a number of separate holdings, belongs to some one individual, family or corporation; hence there is no line of public travel to or through them and no house of public entertainment, except in connection with Cuttyhunk. The trip occupied a week and was made possible through the courtesy and kindness of the owners.

Taken as a whole the islands represent a partially submerged morainal ridge, which has become separated into islands and isolated from the mainland in recent geologic times. They apparently represent a later, more northern branch of the terminal moraine, the southern or older portion of which is represented by Montauk Point, Block Island and Martha's Vineyard.

One of the most interesting discoveries was an exposure of plastic and lignitic clay, presumably Cretaceous in age, on the south side of Nonamessett. The proximity of this locality